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Kernan Announces New 21st Century Logistics Facility in Plainfield; 500 New Jobs Created

INDIANAPOLIS — USCO Logistics, one of North America's premiere third-party logistics service providers, will make Plainfield the home of its newest high-tech distribution center, creating more than 500 jobs by the end of 2004, Lt. Governor Joe Kernan announced today.

Hamden, Conn.-based USCO Logistics is a leading provider of integrated logistics solutions to such customers as Wal-Mart, Home Depot, JC Penney, Nortel Networks, Sun Microsystems, Hoffman-La Roche and AstraZeneca. USCO Logistics is investing \$25.5 million to lease and equip its new 435,864 square-foot facility in Plainfield's Airtech Business Park.

USCO Logistics is a subsidiary of Kuehne & Nagel International AG, Schindellegi, Switzerland, a leading global logistics provider, with 17,500 employees at 600 locations in 94 countries. USCO Logistics operates 15 million square feet of multi-client and dedicated distribution center space throughout North America.

"We are thrilled that USCO Logistics has decided to locate this new facility here in central Indiana. It's exactly the type of 21st century logistics company that we are targeting through Energize Indiana," said Kernan, who serves as the director of the Indiana Department of Commerce.

"With our central location and strong infrastructure, Indiana is an ideal state for companies such as USCO Logistics – and now, with the imminent elimination of the inventory tax, that's even more true. We are excited to be a part of this decision and believe that the partnership between USCO Logistics, the town of Plainfield and the state will benefit Hoosiers for years to come."

USCO Logistics President and Chief Executive Officer Robert R. Auray Jr. said, "We're pleased to be commencing operations in Plainfield and look forward to a long, mutually beneficial relationship. State, county and town officials have been instrumental in working with us to put together a compelling plan for locating this state-of-the-art facility in central Indiana."

To guarantee the company's location in Indiana versus another state, the Indiana Department of Commerce worked with the town of Plainfield to offer a competitive incentive package.

Commerce awarded a \$94,500 grant from its Skills Enhancement Fund to train new employees in skills necessary for positions at USCO Logistics. In addition, Commerce awarded Plainfield a \$250,000 grant from its Industrial Development Grant Fund to assist with off-site infrastructure improvements required by the project. Plainfield will match the state infrastructure grant and also has offered a 10-year tax abatement worth approximately \$1.25 million.

"The state of Indiana and the town of Plainfield have successfully worked together to make Plainfield the center for 21st century logistics in central Indiana. We are pleased USCO Logistics has become the community's newest corporate citizen," said Harold Gutzwiller, executive director of the Hendricks County Economic Development Partnership.

The Indiana Department of Commerce awards Skills Enhancement Fund grants to Indiana companies that undertake capital investment projects. The grants help defray the costs of training new and existing employees in transferable and company-specific skills necessary to support these projects. The Industrial Development Grant Fund provides assistance to local units of government for off-site infrastructure projects in support of new business development.

Companies interested in learning more about these or other programs should contact their regional Commerce office 800.463.8081 or visit the Web site at www.indianacommerce.com.

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